

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 26

OCTOBER 1976

NUMBER 8

Associations Meet

Associations meet for the most part in October. Here the churches and ministers report, for Associations are composed of churches and ministers. Plans are made for the coming year. Goals for Our Christian World Mission (OCWM) are established for the churches. Committees — Christian Education, Outreach, and Church and Ministry — report work done and commitments needed for future work.

There are six Associations in Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ: Alabama-Tennessee and North Alabama in Ala-Tenn. Area; Georgia-South Carolina in those two states; and East Alabama, South Alabama-N.W. Florida, and Central Alabama in the Southern Alabama Area. The six Associations are grouped into three administrative areas with as many clusters as needed for program activities.

Each Association is represented on the Board of Directors of the Conference by its Moderator and an elected representative.

Each Chairman of each Association's Committee on Church and Ministry, Committee on Outreach, and Committee on Christian Education is a member of the same Commission on the Conference level.

The Association causes us to associate with one another and think about the purpose of mission.

For Your Calendar

May 2-4, 1977 — Ministers' Convocation at Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Ala.

Dr. Reuben Sheares, Executive Director of the Office for Church Life and Leadership will be one of the guest speakers.

June 10-12, 1977 — Southeast Conference meets in Annual Session with Central Congregational Church and First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

July 1-5, 1977 — Eleventh General Synod meets at Washington, D.C.

June 25 — Twentieth Anniversary of the United Church of Christ.



Rev. Edward V. Dahmer

New Executive Director Named At Uplands

Rev. Edward V. Dahmer, of Wishek, North Dakota, has been named Executive Director of Uplands Retirement Village and Nursing Home by the Uplands Board of Directors.

Mr. Dahmer is married, has three children, two of whom are married. He holds a B.A. degree from Yankton College, Yankton, S.D. He is highly qualified for the position at Uplands, as he has served as Executive Director of Wishek Retirement & Nursing Home in Wishek, N.D. for nearly thirteen years. He will begin his duties about October 1.

Mr. Dahmer is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, having served Congregational churches in Colorado, Nebraska and California before entering his career in nursing home administration.

He replaces Rev. Lawrence N. Strunk who has agreed to be Administrator of United Church Retirement Home in Newton, N.C., Southern Conference.

Sad News

About Our President

We regret to report that our beloved President of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Robert V. Moss, was struck down by a disease for which no cure has been found to date.

An up-to-date report of his condition has not been received, but when last reported, he remained in critical state.

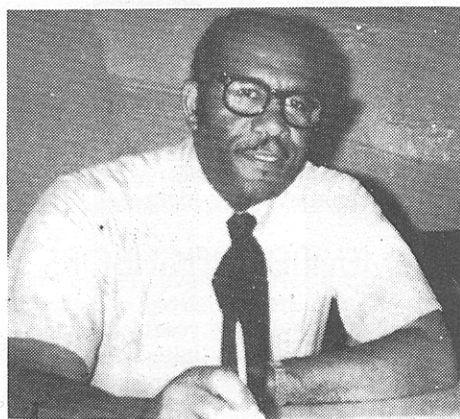
Our prayers go out to sustain him and his family at this time.

SPOTLIGHT: Neighbors In Need Sunday

Sunday, October 3, 1976, was observed as Neighbors in Need Sunday in most congregations of the United Church of Christ and as the occasion for receiving the Neighbors in Need all-church offering.

This year, for the first time, the Neighbors in Need offering includes projects which in the past have been supported by the former American Indian Sunday offering. American Indian Sunday continues as a time for special emphasis but on a new date, the third Sunday of September, timed to precede the NIN Sunday by two weeks.

In addition, NIN will this year support major new programs in behalf of Puerto Ricans and in behalf of consumers in disadvantaged areas. The former is a program supporting bilingual child-care, health, and employment services in urban areas, to be administered by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. The latter is a program of consumer-protection to be administered by the Commission for Racial Justice.



Rev. Franklin W. Thomas

Franklin W. Thomas, Moderator of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, returns to Atlanta, Ga., in October to become Personnel Director for MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority). Mr. Thomas has served as National Personnel Director for the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) with offices in New York City for the past two years.

NEWS ITEMS

Mrs. Betsy Hollinshead Hanes and the Rev. Allen B. Hollis, Jr. were married in a ceremony at United Church of Huntsville on Sunday, September 5, 1976, at 7 P.M. The Rev. Stephen Gray of Brookmeade Congregational Church, Nashville, Tennessee conducted the ceremony.

Warren Blankenhorn, Mrs. Freda Brown and George Percival will attend the Annual Meeting of the Board for World Ministries, October 16-19, in Salem, Mass.

Mark Frey is the lay minister now serving Robbins and Glenmary Churches in Tennessee. He is from Ohio and is a friend of Randy Gehres, the new minister in the Morgan County Parish.

October 10 was a big day for First E & R Church, Nashville, TN. At 10:30 A.M. there was a Mortgage Burning Ceremony. At 4:00 P.M., Lelan D. McReynolds was installed as pastor, and at 5:00 P.M., an open house took place at the renovated parsonage.

In Fairfield Glade, a new housing development, 15 miles north of Crossville, Tenn., the residents are seeking to develop and organize an ecumenical church. Rev. Lee Gable and Rev. Wilbur Scope of the Pleasant Hill Retirement Community are the co-pastors in this effort.

Our Bonanza Church, near Jonesboro, held a Revival in September (13-17), with the following speakers:

Rev. William Hayes, pastor, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Jonesboro.
Rev. Charles S. Crenshaw, former pastor, New Hope United Methodist Church.
Rev. Howard Dial, pastor Berachan Baptist Church, Atlanta.
David Quick, Bonanza United Church of Christ.
Rev. Emilie Pitcock, ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Atlanta.

Each person spoke one night of the week.

REMEMBER NEIGHBORS

The Neighbors in Need all-church offering, which will be received in most congregations of the United Church of Christ on October 3rd, will include for the first time the American Indian Sunday offering — received separately in former years. Proceeds from the NIN offering will be divided this year as follows:

\$150,000 to Council for American Indian ministry for its varied ministries.

\$130,000 to the Commission for Racial Justice for a project of consumer-protection.

\$120,000 to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for a new project benefitting Puerto Ricans.

Mrs. Juanita Velasco (Central Church, Atlanta), Mrs. Martha Lauderdale (Langdale Church), and Mrs. Marion Cameron (Pilgrim Church, Birmingham) presented the Shared Approaches to Church Curriculum at the 12 meetings of ministers and Christian Education leaders across the Conference. Warren Blankenhorn, Stephen Gray, and W.J. Andes also shared in these discussions of the four set of curricula for all areas of Church education designed to meet the diverse concerns, needs and purposes in our local congregations.

The Mission Seminar is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, October 29-31, at the Lanett Congregational Christian Church. Rev. Harold N. Auler, Jr. is the pastor. The Outreach Commission of the Conference is bringing together church leaders in the Southern Alabama Area to discuss the world-wide mission of the church, and how we can share in it. Among the guest leaders of the seminar are: John DeBoer (New York), David Langerhans and George Siudy (Philadelphia), Pressly Ingram (Birmingham).

Has your church ordered "Let's Celebrate the Church", the new audio-visual resource on the total mission of the United Church of Christ? It is free upon request to the Stewardship Council, Distribution Service, 1505 Race Street, Phila., Pa. 19102, one to each congregation.

Watch for the October issue of A.D. for facts about Our Christian World Mission and about our stewardship of Church support.

Order United Church Curriculum materials now for second semester from Division of Publication Periodical Dept., 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Is your church prepared for Stewardship Sunday on November 14? This is generally the Christian Enlistment Sunday for many churches when the members make their pledges and commitments to the church for the year ahead.

World Community Day is Friday, Nov. 5.

Rev. Henry Weaver of Atlanta is serving as pastor of Liberty Church, Bowman, Ga.

Chaplain Charles E. Fix of Atlanta is supply pastor of Macedonia Church, Braselton, Ga.

Rev. Mary-Lynn Ogletree will be

Dr. Herman Long Of Talladega Dead

Dr. Herman H. Long, President of Talladega College in Talladega, Ala., a pioneer black psychologist and writer, died August 8, after an illness of several weeks. He was 64.

Dr. Long became President of Talladega College, his alma mater, in 1964, the second black man to serve in that capacity following a long line of white presidents. Dr. Long also served as president of the United Negro College Fund, of which Talladega was a member school, 1970-75.

During the 1940's, Dr. Long was the operating head of the Human Relations Institute of the American Missionary Association, based at Fisk University. In that capacity, he traveled to many American cities, conducting studies of race relations and carrying out programs trying to better relations between the races. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, AMA general secretary, said "The annual Race Relations Institutes held under Dr. Long's direction had a greater effect on the course of race relations in this country than any other single series of events."

Survivors include a wife and a daughter. A Memorial Service was held at Talladega College, August 12.

Music at Central Church, Atlanta, on Sunday, August 22, was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Herman Long, played by Franklin Thomas on the organ.

IMPROVED SERVICES TO UPLANDS

A six-months study has been made to improve the services to Uplands residents. A new department is to be established called Home Health Care. The director of this department will be May Bryant, R.N., who for some years was Director of Nursing Service for Uplands. She will report directly to Betty Strang, R.N., Director of Nursing Service. All retirees in the Village may call for nursing service, day or night. Injections, dressings, regular treatments, etc. will be cared for by her. No charges will be levied, but a contribution for services may be made.

A fourth book of Children's Sermons, CAPTAIN DUCKY, by S. Lawrence Johnson will be published by Abingdon Press in October. Johnson, who is Pastor Emeritus of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, Alabama, has received world-wide circulation of his books. Reviews have come from as far away as South Africa, France and Australia.

"THE DEVOTIONS"

I grew up thinking of "devotions" as a body of ever so serious and dull moralisms. To hear that "the devotions" were to begin was a signal to leave the room in spirit if not in body. And then one day I heard a Roman Catholic speak of "devotions" and as he did so a different definition was clearly in his mind. By "devotions" he meant "the things to which one is devoted" and "the things to which one devotes time or energy." Well, it is in the latter sense that I hope we see the "Seasons of Devotion" at Central: simply pieces of time and energy that we are "devoting."

So we begin:

A SEASON OF DEVOTION TO THE DEEDS OF GOD AS FATHER — "a creationtide"

"We believe in God . . . and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death." Sunday, Sept. 12 (14th after Pentecost) Readings: Genesis 2:5-9, Ephesians 5:21-33, John 6:60-69. Sermon: "The Generative Person"

Wm T. Scott, Jr. (Minister)

AWARDS

On Saturday, August 21, 1976, Summer Graduation Exercises were held at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Master of Divinity Degrees were awarded to the Reverend James K. Rowland, former Administrative Assistant in the Southeast Conference office, and to the Reverend R. Hugh Lasseter, from Candler Divinity School of Emory University. Mr. Rowland is now serving as Associate Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Largo, Fla. Mr. Lasseter is pastor of New Hope Church in Clio, Alabama.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-Class Postage Paid at Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Published monthly October and November; February to July, inclusive; bi-monthly August-September and December-January, by and for the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

The United Church of Christ

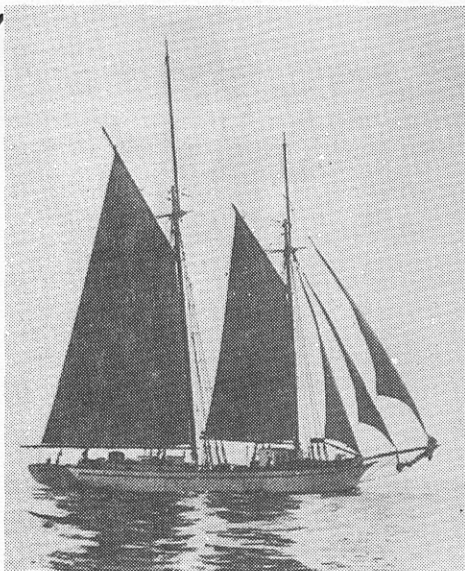
2684 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 26 October 1976 No. 8

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P. O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30329



130-foot schooner which sails as a replica of the 1839 La Amistad in "Operation Sail."

Replica Of Amistad Sails In July 4th Parade Of Tall Ships

A whole boat-load of anti-slavery history sailed up the Hudson River July 4.

A vessel bearing the historic Amistad name sailed in New York City's Operation Sail, a model of the ship is on display in the city's World Trade Center, an art exhibit named Amistad II opened this summer in Philadelphia, and an Amistad Opera is being prepared in Washington, D.C.

The original "Amistad," a 130-foot top-sailed schooner was headed for a slave market in Cuba from Sierra Leone in 1839, when control of the ship was seized by the slaves on board, led by Cinque, son of Mende royalty.

The rebel slaves killed the captain and cook, sparing two of the Spanish crew and ordering them to return the vessel to Africa. The Spaniards tricked Cinque and his compatriots, and the ship was finally intercepted by U.S. authorities off Montauk, Long Island. The 39 slaves were jailed in New Haven on charges of murder and piracy.

A group of abolitionists from Yale University formed the Friends of Amistad and fought the case up to the Supreme Court, where, in 1841, the slaves were defended by former President John Quincy Adams. The Africans were acquitted and returned to their homeland, and the Friends of Amistad continued as the American Missionary Association.

GEORGIA YOUTH EMP. TEAM

The Georgia Youth Empowerment Team, three youths 18 to 20 years of age and working with United Church of Christ, Episcopalian and Disciples of Christ churches, have begun work within local churches.

August 23 to 28 the Team visited the Coastal Area where Dr. Howard Jason of First Congregational Church of Savannah, is the coordinator.

The Team spent Sept. 12-15 with local churches in Southwest Georgia. The Team will have a major role in the leadership of the Georgia-South Carolina Association meeting at Demorest, Georgia, October 23-24. They anticipate this opportunity to be with United Church Youth.

What does the GYET do in this first round of visits? The following is an excerpt from their journal for one day, August 24: "We were met in Savannah by Howard Jason at the First Congregational Church. Dr. Jason drove us to Midway Congregational Church where we met with Ezekiel Walthour and two youths, and had lunch together. Midway UCY meets after church on Sunday. Youth appears to play a significant role in the life of their church community. Fifth Sundays are Youth Days with youths handling the entire service. Second and fourth Sundays youth ministers give a short children's sermon. Several youths assist in teaching Sunday School classes. We returned to Savannah where we met the minister and four youths at the Disciples Church, Church of the Covenant. This is an integrated congregation. After that, we returned to the First Congregational Church where one of the women had prepared a snack of cookies and punch for the meeting. Six youths met with us. They now have no organized youth program. The youths encouraged us to return in the hope that we could serve as a 'catalyst for their youth group to begin.'

We toured Savannah after the meeting, and then we had supper with Dr. and Mrs. Jason and Rev. Neil Mosley. Cassandra and Carol spent the night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Washington and Maurice was a guest at the Jason's."

Each area where the Team works has a support group of representatives of the three denominations. The Coastal Area Support Group provided means for the Team to feel comfortable in unfamiliar surroundings, as well as being the link for local churches to accept the visit.

Trudi Sanford, Chairperson, GYET
Steering Committee

A Message From The Executive V. P.

Where are we in World Ministries, as we enter the second half of the 1970's, the last quarter of the second Christian millennium, and look toward the awesomely interdependent world of 2000 A.D.? It seems to me that three words describe our present position: **Healthy, Difficult, Promising.**

We are **Healthy** because our dollar income is higher than it has ever been; because we have dealt with five years of financial and political adversity and emerged with a staff and program which is efficient, well-balanced and effective; because our Corporation and Directors are involved and working in a remarkably effective way; because the theology of Christian mission is more vital and relevant than it has been for decades.

Difficulties — there are, of course. Our real income has declined. We face agonizing decisions about allocation of scarce resources.

But resources have always been scarce and their allocation will always be difficult. The world mission enterprise has never been the primary concern of the majority of members of clergy in any church (except certain missionary sects). The great history of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions depended heavily on the devotion and support of an informed and devoted minority.

If hope for our work depended on being able to detail a five- or ten-year projection of missionary assignments to be made and program grants to be made in countries like Lebanon, Rhodesia, South Africa, Indonesia, India, Honduras.. we should have a right to be discouraged! But the Holy Spirit is the Missionary who has ways of opening all kinds of unexpected doors even as others close.

We have every reason to hope that God will continue to use this Board from 1976 to 1981 as he has used it in the 166 years since 1810.

David M. Stowe

Pressly Ingram, Birmingham, Ala., visited the Millard Fullers in Zaire, Africa, this summer. Pressly has quite a story to tell of the work there. The Fullers are back home in Alabama and they spoke recently in the Lanett, Ala., church.

TO ALL WHO RECEIVE THE "SOUTHEAST NEWS"

1. If you move or have your address changed, be sure to notify:

The Southeast News
Box 29883
Atlanta, Ga. 30359

If you don't, the Post Office notifies the Southeast Conference Office for "Postage Due" — 25 cents per change of address. This takes a huge slice out of a \$1.00 subscription!

2. During the Fall, renewals or new subscriptions at \$1.00 each should be sent to **SOUTHEAST NEWS**, Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30359. Many renew their subscriptions at Association meetings.

3. Churches that send the **SOUTHEAST NEWS** to families in the church should notify the **SOUTHEAST NEWS** of change of address as soon as possible. Thanks!!

!! BACK TO SALEM !!

The 166th Annual Meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries will bring that body back to the place from which the first missionaries departed for overseas service in 1812. Salem, Mass. will be the venue of the October 17-20 meeting.

The theme of the meeting will be "Mission '76: Proclaim Liberty". This meeting is an opportunity for the Board to renew relationships with the Massachusetts Conference of the U.C.C., the denomination's largest conference, once the home of the Board's predecessor American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It will also be a further development in the recent special relationship between the UCBWM and the three Northeastern Associations of the Conference. Major interpretive efforts will be made in the Conference before the meeting, and there will be post-Meeting speaking engagements for many in the Maine and New Hampshire Conference as well. Delegates will be housed in private family homes in order to reduce expenses and contribute to relationship-building.

Richard Braun, a U.C.C. missionary and the medical director of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Hospital at Adidome, Ghana, West Africa, spoke on September 12, 1976, to the Pleasant Hill Community Church.

News Items . . .

[Continued from Page 2]

serving Vanderbilt University for the coming year in the position as a full-time chaplain. In addition, she will serve as lecturer in a course "Women and Ministry" to be taught at Vanderbilt Divinity School. A member at Brookmeade, Mary Lynn is a U.C.C. minister and is presently working in Ala-Tenn. Association as Chairperson of the Christian Education Committee.

The Rev. and Mrs. Artis Johnson, pastor of Bethany U.C.C. Church of Thomasville, Ga., and the Evergreen U.C.C. Church of Beachton, Ga., attended the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa., August 10-20, 1976.

They were enrolled in courses entitled "Old Testament Preaching" and "The Pastor as a Fulltime Negotiator." These courses are credited toward continuing education units.

They lived in a nice apartment on campus with all the comforts of home. Both of them enjoyed their two weeks in Lancaster. They wish to thank the Southeast Conference for helping make the trip a success.

Rev. Lawrence Strunk was preacher for the September 19 service of worship at Pleasant Hill Church. He and Mrs. Strunk moved to North Carolina before October 1, to begin his new work there. A farewell reception for the Strunks was held Friday, Sept. 17, in Wharton Assembly Room at Uplands in Pleasant Hill, TN.

The Mystery Of Mrs. Craig

A Nashville newspaper carried a story about Mrs. Lila Craig, who hasn't missed attending church in 1,040 Sundays, although she is in her eighties. The editor commented, "It makes one wonder what's the matter with Mrs. Craig? Doesn't it ever rain or snow in her town on Sunday? Doesn't she ever have unexpected company? How is it that she never goes anywhere on Saturday night so that she's too tired to attend the worship service the next morning? Doesn't she ever become angry at the minister or have her feelings hurt by someone and feel justified in staying home to hear a good sermon on radio or TV? What's the matter with Mrs. Craig, anyway? (Reprinted, from Ivy Chapel, Chesterfield).